

Topic Sentence Mini-Lesson

A topic sentence is an umbrella that “covers” all of the details about the topic. The details that follow the statement must have something in common so that the paragraph is unified and makes sense to the reader. The topic sentence or “umbrella” statement expresses the idea that the details in a paragraph have in common.

James always packs the right things for a day at the beach.(topic sentence)
(Details)

He brings sunglasses to shield his eyes, and allow him to watch people. The rescue buoy makes beachgoers think he’s a lifeguard. The lawnchair helps him to pose to show off his six-pack abs. Gatorade in a glass with a straw, looks just like a daiquiri. Ah, yes...James comes to the beach to meet girls.



Now, write a topic sentence that you might use in a paragraph about each of the following sentences. Be sure to think about what details would be sheltered under the umbrella of your topic sentence.

1. How you clean your room
2. What the contents of your locker reveal about you
3. A particular class you like or dislike
4. the qualities of a friend you admire
5. The reasons you like or dislike a particular food

Write a topic sentence for each of the following pictures.

6.



7.



8.



9. Assess and revise your work. Consult the Idea rubric and a partner’s input.
10. Select your best thesis and write at least three details to support your idea.
11. Write one sentence that doesn’t belong.

12. Use your thesis and details to write a paragraph.
13. See if your partner can find the sentence that doesn't belong.
14. Check your paragraph with the Idea Rubric. Have you scored 4 or 5 for Idea?
Does your partner agree?
15. If so, make a final copy on the computer...if not, come see me for some ideas for details.

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